



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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FEDERAL JURY IN DEL RIO CONVICTS DRUG SMUGGLER

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that a federal jury in Del Rio, Texas, has convicted Richard Bailey Garcia, a United States Citizen, on four drug smuggling charges. This afternoon, following a two-day trial before United States District Judge Alia Ludlum, the jury found that Garcia attempted to smuggle 55 kilograms of marijuana and 1 kilogram of cocaine into the United States from Mexico.

Today's conviction marks the first of many that will follow in 2007 in our continual battle to punish drug traffickers and prevent them from selling their poison in our country," stated United States Attorney Johnny Sutton.

At trial, the government showed that on April 2, 2006, the defendant, applied for admission to the United States at the Del Rio, Texas, Port of Entry driving a 1994 Chevrolet pickup. At primary inspection, Customs and Border Protection Officers noticed tampering underneath the pickup's bed. A canine drug interdiction dog subsequently alerted to narcotics in the vehicle. After inspection, a trap door was found in the truck's wheel well, revealing a secret compartment underneath the truck's bed. Hidden inside the compartment were 55 bundles of marijuana and one bundle of cocaine.

As a result of the jury's verdict, Garcia faces up to forty years and a mandatory minimum of five years in federal prison on counts one and two of importation and possession with intent to distribute cocaine and up to 20 years on counts three and four of possession with intent to distribute and importation of marijuana.

Sentencing is scheduled for April 2, 2007. This case was investigated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection Officers. It is being prosecuted for the government by Special Assistant United States Attorney Jason Schall and Assistant United States Attorney Erica Giese.

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